



# THE NATURE OF VOLUNTEERING

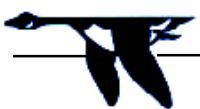
Vol 1. No. 24

EXPLORE THE WONDERS OF NATURE - VOLUNTEER

Summer 2005

## DID YOU KNOW ...

On Tuesday June 21st, the refuge was recognized as the 2005 regional eco-tourism award winner by the Greater Atlantic City Regional Tourism Council at the 22nd Annual Tourism Awards Luncheon in Atlantic City. In addition to the award on Tuesday from the Greater Atlantic City Regional Tourism Council, the refuge also received a certificate from the Atlantic County Executive and a certificate from the Executive Director of the New Jersey Office of Travel and Tourism. We would not have received any of these awards, in my opinion, if the refuge was not involved with the Greater Atlantic City Regional Tourism Council. The Greater Atlantic City Regional Tourism Council is one of six tourism councils in New Jersey.



*Wild Things*

**AMERICA'S  
NATIONAL  
WILDLIFE  
REFUGES**

*where wildlife  
comes naturally!*

## Once-Thought Extinct Ivory-Billed Woodpecker Found on the Cache River National Wildlife Refuge

For more than 60 years the Ivory-billed woodpecker has been considered extinct in the United States. However, conservationists and birders can now celebrate confirmed sightings of the nation's largest woodpecker on the Cache River National Wildlife Refuge in eastern Arkansas.

The Ivory-billed woodpecker stands more than 19 inches tall and has distinct black and white markings. It is surpassed in size only by the Imperial woodpecker of Mexico. The male has a striking red crest while the female has a black head and crest. The Ivory-billed woodpecker prefers thick hardwood swamps and pine forests with abundant dead trees like those found on the 54,000-acre Cache River NWR.

The Cache River NWR was established in 1986 and, like the other 544 national wildlife refuges, maintains an active habitat management program. While the refuge was established to conserve wetlands for migratory waterfowl, its habitat management programs provide prime conditions for the stately woodpeckers. The Cache River NWR includes more than 40,000 acres of bottomland forest and 8,000 acres of reforested land. The bottomland forest is the primary habitat for the Ivory-billed woodpecker.

The Ivory-billed woodpecker was rediscovered through the cooperative efforts of the U.S. Department of the Interior, the U.S. Department of Agriculture, the Arkansas Game and Fish Commission, the Nature Conservancy, the Cornell Lab of Ornithology and other members of the Big Woods Conservation Partnership. The Big Woods of Arkansas ecosystem, an area that also includes the 160,000-acre [White River](#)

(continued on page 2, Ivory Billed Woodpecker)



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## CHIEF'S CORNER

Refuge System Chief Bill Hartwig

Alaska invites superlatives. The mountains, the waters, the wildness have stirred writers for decades. The Alaska Maritime and Kenai national wildlife refuges reinvigorated me when I saw them during the Promises Implementation Team meeting last month.

"Compatibility" - just a concept in the Refuge System Improvement Act - is a very real issue here. We see just what it means to hold the line for wildlife-compatible recreation, and what it would mean for the resource if we did anything less. As people explore both of these spectacular refuges, their reputations as recreation wonderlands spread, and the pressures increase.

Our refuge managers are doing a great job of balancing public use and wildlife conservation. We in Washington, DC, are working equally hard on Capitol Hill to help legislators understand the delicate balance of public access and resource protection as more groups seek recreation activities that don't center on wildlife.

Alaska Maritime and Kenai national wildlife refuges also remind us what Alaska means to the Refuge System. Eighty percent of the Refuge System's lands, about 77 million acres, are in Alaska. The refuges I saw - and I only saw a little of either one - are beautiful and massive: Alaska Maritime Refuge is about 3.4 million acres, while Kenai Refuge is about 1.9 million acres. Their work is equally massive. While not every refuge in our System will achieve the gold standard set by these refuges, we can all take pride in their work and strive for their level of achievement. Our folks accomplish truly amazing things. Start with the 120-foot research ship Tiglax, the floating science center with access to many of the 2,500 islands, islets and headlands that make up Alaska Maritime Refuge. Outfitted with wet and dry laboratories and other equipment, the Tiglax transports researchers and supplies to some of the most remote destinations on Earth.

In 2003, the refuge launched a program to restore the Evermann's rock ptarmigan to Agattu Island to increase its chances for long-term survival. Over the past two years, teams captured more than 50 of the rare birds and sailed them on the Tiglax across the swells of the northern Pacific from Attu Island. The bird had not crossed the 30-mile-wide ocean pass in the 30 years that Agattu Island has been fox free.

That Agattu Island is fox free is another tale to tell. Thanks to a 35-year campaign, the Aleutian cackling goose is thriving again on the island after Alaska Maritime Refuge staff fought the non-native foxes that had nearly brought the goose to extinction.

Every refuge in our System has its tales to tell, and I want to hear as many as possible. What we do for wildlife - and how we bring people close to their lands - is a story that is timeless.

Ivory Billed Woodpecker, continued from page 1

NWR, will be the focus of efforts to conserve the woodpecker in the future.

According to Secretary of the Interior, Gale Norton, "This is a rare second chance to preserve through cooperative conservation what was once thought lost forever."

Recognizing the opportunity to conserve such a rare bird, Secretary Norton committed substantial resources to future conservation efforts. "Decisive conservation action and continued progress through partnerships are now required. I will appoint the best talent in the U.S. Fish and

Wildlife Service and local citizens to develop a Corridor of Hope Cooperative Conservation Plan to save the Ivory-billed woodpecker," Norton said.

The Department of the Interior, along with the Department of Agriculture, has proposed more than \$10 million in federal funds be committed to protect the bird. This amount would supplement \$10 million already committed to research and habitat protection efforts by private sector groups and citizens, an amount expected to grow once news of the rediscovery spreads. Federal funds will be used for research and monitoring, recovery planning and public education. In addition, the funds will be used to enhance law enforcement and conserve habitat through conservation easements, safe-harbor agreements and conservation reserves.

While conservation plans are developed, staff at the Cache River NWR are bracing for an influx of birders from across the nation and beyond. According to Cache River Refuge Manager Dennis Widener, the best viewing opportunities are available on the adjacent Dagmar Wildlife Management Area, managed by the Arkansas Game and Fish Commission. The best viewing areas are designated on the map found at <http://www.fws.gov/cacheriver>. Additional viewing sites will be established in early May.

Article from U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service home page. For more information, go to <http://refuges.fws.gov>.

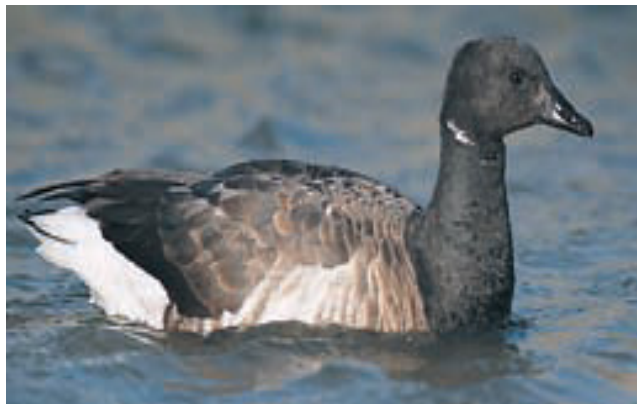


If you have questions or additional information, there are two avenues available -- the Cornell Laboratory of Ornithology will accept reports of sightings via [ivorybill@cornell.edu](mailto:ivorybill@cornell.edu) or write to Cornell Lab of Ornithology, Attn: Communications, 159 Sapsucker Woods Rd., Ithaca, New York 14850.



## Refuge Species Profile - Atlantic Brant

by Jorge Coppen, Wildlife Biologist



This is a first in a 3-part series reviewing the life history of species noted in the purposes for which the refuge was established.

**Brigantine NWR was established on October 5, 1939, under the authority of the Migratory Bird Conservation Act to preserve estuarine habitats important to the Atlantic brant (*Branta bernicla hrota*) and to provide nesting habitats for American black ducks (*Anas rubripes*) and rails (*Rallidae*).**

Obviously these species groups represent significant resources of today's Forsythe NWR. What follows is a review of one of these important resources.

There are two races of brant in North America. Along the Pacific coast we find the Pacific or black brant (*Branta bernicla nigricans*). Here on the Atlantic coast we see the Atlantic or light-bellied brant (*Branta bernicla hrota*). The small patch of white on the upper neck and the striking white ventral area contrasted against a dark body are important identification markings. The ventral region (underparts) of the Atlantic brant are much lighter than that of the Pacific brant.

Brant are among the smallest of geese, weighing in at a bit over 3 pounds. They spend their lives near saline wetland habitats, nesting on coastal tundra environments and wintering at bays, lagoons and estuaries where they feed primarily on eel grass beds and sea lettuce exposed at low tides on shallow flats. In the central portion of the arctic, the breeding ranges of these two races overlaps.

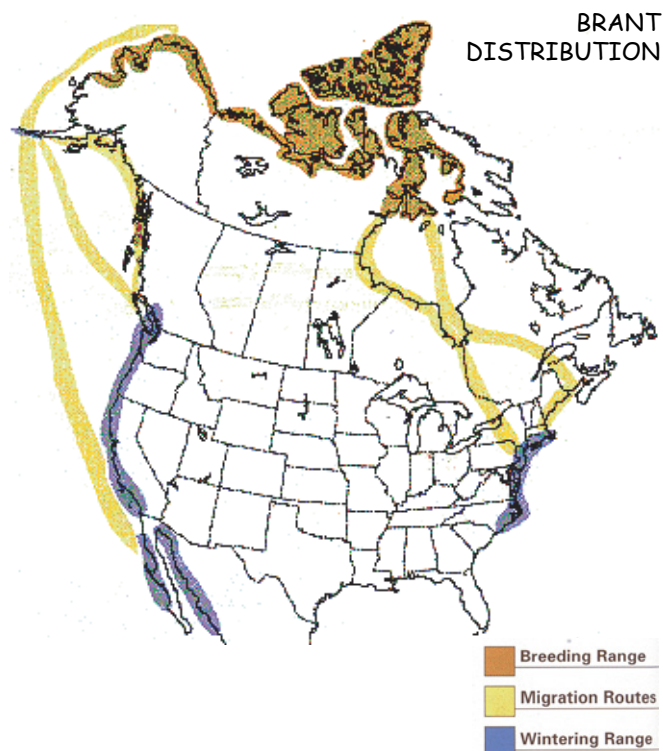
Brant arrive on the breeding grounds by early June. There must be some snow-free ground available to allow for nest construction. If the winter holds on, brant females will only wait a limited time before they reabsorb eggs and a complete breeding failure follows. In 2004, biologists on Southampton and Baffin Islands during June reported snow and ice conditions similar to or slightly delayed from 2003. However, brant arrival to nesting areas may have

been delayed by persistent snow cover on migration areas near Hudson and James Bays in 2004. This strategy, while devastating to annual production, enhances the long-term survival of the species.

Broods can spend up to 20 hours a day feeding voraciously and will reach flight stage in about 50 days. Atlantic brant leave their breeding grounds in late August as they depart for James Bay. James Bay is a critical staging area where the brant feed and rest September through October. While fall migration movement has not been well documented, it is speculated that the brant make a direct flight from James Bay to their east coast wintering grounds encompassing Massachusetts to the Carolinas.

A high percentage of brant winter along the New Jersey coast, Long Island Sound (New York) and the Virginia coast. The January 2003 mid-winter surveys showed that 72% of the 164,526 brant counted were concentrated in New Jersey. In 2004, 65% of the 129,600 Atlantic brant counted wintered in New Jersey. Estimates have increased an average of 2% per year for the most recent 10-year period.

Shoreline development, wetland drainage and declining abundance of eel grass have forced brant to adapt migration and wintering patterns. Fortunately, Forsythe NWR preserves significant high-quality wintering habitats for one of our mascots, the Atlantic brant.



The Friends of Forsythe NWR is a non-profit group established in 1998 to provide support and services to the Edwin B. Forsythe National Wildlife Refuge in Oceanville, New Jersey. Our goals are:



- Promoting a better understanding of the natural history and environment of Southern New Jersey, the Edwin B. Forsythe NWR and the National Wildlife Refuge System.
- Helping to preserve and enhance the wildlife habitat at this Refuge, and to assist the Refuge, the Refuge System and the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service in a variety of educational and supportive efforts.

Please consider joining the Friends of Forsythe and help us accomplish these goals. Call 609-748-1535 or visit [www.friendsofforsythe.org](http://www.friendsofforsythe.org)



## UPDATE

by Mariann Davis,  
Secretary and Webmistress



The Stay Focused Photo Club, affiliated with Friends of Forsythe, is always on the go.

Recently several members enjoyed a trip to our nation's capital to capture some special photographic opportunities. We visited Arlington National Cemetery, the new Museum of the American Indian, the US Botanical Gardens, and the Mall with all its memorials and vistas. You can view a slideshow of our handiwork from a link at our website: [www.stayfocusedphotoclub.com](http://www.stayfocusedphotoclub.com). The club has planned an outing to the Philadelphia Zoo for October.

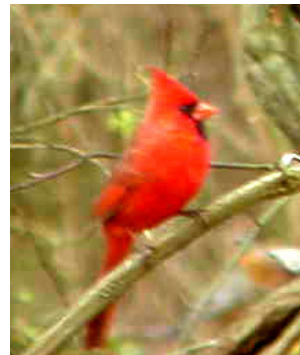
In June we hosted our first inter-club juried photography show, which was held at the Refuge auditorium. This competition drew visitors from two other South Jersey photo clubs, some of whom had not been to the Refuge before. There were 37 B&W entries, 59 color prints, and 34 slides, for a total of 130 entries. Thirteen of the 35 prizes were won by SFPC members. Our own club member, Barbara Cahan, garnered the top prize with a striking black and white portrait that delighted the three judges. Another competition is planned for November.

Many club members donate their time and talent to photographing activities at the refuge, from the special to the everyday. There will be trips throughout the summer where club members will have the opportunity to tag along on refuge chores in areas not normally seen by the public. They will also have the chance to test-drive the new portable blinds the Refuge has acquired.

## WHAT'S GOING ON?

The Friends Board of Directors is now working on a five year plan to improve our support of the Refuge. In order to carry out those plans, more muscle is needed. Among the areas needing improvement are active member recruitment, establishment of outreach groups and fund-raising capability. While we have done fairly well up to now, the federal budget constraints mean that less money will be available for operations, maintenance and completion of land acquisition.

While our New Jersey Congressional delegation has been very supportive, others in Congress look to cut back funds even further. For those members who reside out of state, you can start by finding out how your Congressional members vote on refuge system issues. Let them know of your support for the refuge system. Voters count!



A new trail has been established, focusing on the migratory songbirds. There are still some rough spots, but it should be improved in time for fall migration. Check it out in the new Refuge brochure - all 4 miles of it.

Ed Bristow

## FRIENDS SCHOLARSHIPS AVAILABLE

The Friends of the National Conservation Training Center (NCTC) has received a grant from the National Fish and Wildlife Foundation to pay tuition, room and board for refuge Friends group members and/or volunteers who wish to attend NCTC training courses. The grant will not cover transportation. For more information, contact Sandy at 609-748-1535.



# LE CORNER



**Welcome to the Refuge Law Enforcement Corner, A.K.A. - L.E. Corner.** This new section of the newsletter is dedicated to informing readers how refuge law enforcement here at The Edwin B. Forsythe National Wildlife Refuge is working to uphold the mission of the Refuge System. We hope you will enjoy these tid-bits of information, stories, and other stuff that comes to mind and passed along by the Office of Refuge Law Enforcement. For those new people, or if you just plain forgot, the Office of Refuge Law Enforcement is made up of two outstanding and dedicated officers named Chris Pancila and Brian Willard. Chris has worked out of the Barnegat Office since 2002. Brian has worked out of the Brigantine office since 1997.

Refuge Officer Chris Pancila has been chosen as a member of the Region 5 Special Operations Response Team (SORT). These chosen few receive special training and will be involved in the response of emergency situations within the region and other events where additional law enforcement presence is needed.

The refuge is hosting a Law Enforcement SCEP student for the summer. Her name is Michelle Donlan, who hails from Pennsylvania and comes to us from Slippery Rock University. She is working toward a masters in park and resource management. In addition she has a strong interest in Refuge Law Enforcement. She will be working with Refuge Officers and other staff over the course of the summer. The Student Career Experience Program (SCEP) is a program designed to recruit and train degree-seeking students for permanent jobs in Fish and Wildlife Service positions. Each work experience is related as closely as possible to the student's educational program and career goals.

In May, Refuge Officer Brian Willard delivered a presentation on conservation law enforcement at the Galloway municipal complex for the Galloway Police Explorer group. These kids have a strong sense of community with most having a desire to eventually become police officers.

On Thursday May 19, Refuge Law Enforcement organized a clean-up of the "Liberty Way tract" in Lacey Twp. The area is frequently used as a hang-out

area for local kids and generates a high volume of discarded material. A call for volunteers went out. The 4-hour clean-up involved seven people and a 30 yard dumpster provided by Lacey Township. The site remained clean for the rest of the month, something that has not happened in years!

So far in 2005, Refuge Officers have responded to many incidents involving resource damage, hunting complaints, and illegal off road vehicle use. Warnings or citations have also been issued for motor vehicle violations, possession of controlled substances, closed area violations, and entrance fee violations (remember that 80% of fee money is used by the Forsythe Refuge solely to enhance visitor use!)

Refuge Officers would like to thank a few volunteers (you know who you are!) that have provided us with information involving an illegal use on the refuge or the illegal take of refuge resources. This information aided us to make a few apprehensions. We appreciate the fact that you all remain observant and hold the refuge as close to your heart as we do.

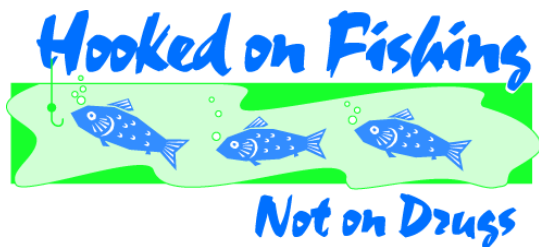
## "The lighter side"

In an area of the refuge closed to public use due to structural hazards, Refuge Officer Brian Willard and SCEP student Michelle Donlan encountered three people who took off running when they spotted refuge patrol. Officer Willard got on the vehicles loud speaker and announced famous phrases such as, "You'd better come out," "I see you hiding in the brush," and "I've got all day." Just before the final shrug, three tee shirts were observed running across the field toward some houses. The patrol vehicle stopped at the wood line where Officer Willard jumped out and dashed through the woods and through somebody's back yard. There walking in the road in front of the house were three dirty, sweaty, out of breath teenagers. One of the kids said, "I don't believe you caught us." Officer Willard replied, "Why is that?" The kid responded, "We didn't think you would get out of your car."



SCEP student, **Michelle Donlan**





## Fishing Derby for Kids

Saturday, June 11, 2005  
at Patriot Lake, Galloway, NJ

Sponsored by Edwin B. Forsythe National Wildlife Refuge and Galloway Township



*Casting Kids contest*



*Enjoying some father-son time.*

photo by Ed Reed



*Learning about the dangers of  
alcohol & drug abuse*



*Quality Family Time*



*Helping to stock the lake*

photos by Barbara Fiedler

Many thanks to the following organizations and individuals that made this event a success:  
Americorps/Watershed Ambassadors, Atlantic County Association of Chiefs of Police, Atlantic County Federation of Sportsmen's Clubs, Inc., Barbara Fiedler, Cedarwater Bassmasters of South Jersey, Chestnut Neck Boat Yard, Commerce Bank - Galloway, Diane Sykes, Eckerd Drugs, Friends of Forsythe NWR, Galloway Ambulance Squad, Galloway Police Department & Explorers, Galloway Public Works, Gourmet Italian Restaurant, Hackettstown State Fish Hatchery, Howard Huston, Linda McDevitt, NJ Division of Fish and Wildlife, NJ Federated Sportsmen's Club, Noyes Museum, One Hour MotoPhoto of Northfield, Patriot Lake Committee, Rick Smith, Target, Walmart, and Forsythe Volunteers Ed Jones, Doug Kellner and Rich Koterba.





## OUR SUMMER INTERNS

**Rachael Alberici** is a recent graduate with a BS in Marine Science from Richard Stockton College. Rachael lives in Phillipsburg, NJ.



**Carli Koshal**, who hails from Miami Beach, Florida, is a Junior at the University of Pennsylvania, majoring in Wildlife Management. Carli's internship is through the *Conservation Careers Diversity Internship Program*, which is managed by the Environmental Careers Organization (ECO) to provide college students with paid training and research opportunities.

**Mary Lambert** enjoyed interning at Forsythe so much last year, that she applied to intern again this year. Mary graduated in May from the State University of New York (SUNY), College of Environmental Science and Forestry (Syracuse, NY).



**Lynn Maun** lives with her husband in Williamstown, NJ. She graduated from Richard Stockton College in 2004 with a major in Environmental Studies.

**Miranda Monica** is an undergraduate student at SUNY, College of Environmental Science and Forestry (Syracuse, NY), studying to be a wildlife biologist.



**Sheryl Senczakiewicz** is collecting data under the direction of Tom Virzi, who is doing a detailed study of American Oystercatcher breeding habitat requirements, nest success and causes of nest failure in New Jersey as part of his doctoral dissertation at Rutgers University.

## New Web Site Showcases Refuges' Historic and Cultural Treasures

Most of us know national wildlife refuges as places to observe and photograph wildlife, hunt, and fish - but they're also historically distinctive sites that reveal the cultural legacies of the past. The historical, archaeological, and cultural treasures protected in national wildlife refuges — including paleoindian sites, lighthouses, and sacred tribal areas — are showcased on a new Web site.

Visitors to the new Web site, located at <http://historicpreservation.fws.gov/>, will learn about the important archaeological and historic sites within national wildlife refuges, such as the Battle of Midway National Memorial on the Midway Atoll in the Pacific Ocean, pueblo sites in New Mexico, a Civil War-era plantation in South Carolina, and segments of the Lewis and Clark National Historic Trail. A monthly newsletter posted on the site reports on new findings, such the discovery of a rare elk skull and antlers in New York, and the nomination of a fish hatchery in Louisiana to the National Registry of Historic Places.

It also provides updates on legislative, training, volunteer, and educational news, and upcoming events. The Web site details the national wildlife refuge system's museum properties, programs, and volunteer events - all of which help national wildlife refuges protect and manage sites important for their local traditional and cultural values.

Article from Fish and Wildlife Service bimonthly tip sheet. For all the latest news releases from the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, visit the Virtual Newsroom at <http://news.fws.gov/newsreleases>.

## UPCOMING EVENTS



**Stay Focused Photo Club** meets the second Saturday of each month at 10 am in the Refuge auditorium.

**For Volunteers Only Field Trip - Thursday, July 28.** Trip to Ocean County Parks - Program and tour of Cattus Island, then off to Wells Mills County Park for a tour. We'll have an hour of free time for lunch and canoeing. Canoes will be available. Meet at Headquarters by 8:30 a.m. RSVP to Sandy - 609-748-1535.

**Annual Volunteer Appreciation Dinner** - Coming in August. Look for your invitation in the mail.

**National Wildlife Refuge Day and Make a Difference Day** - Saturday, October 22



## The Bat and the Weasels *one of Aesop's Fables*



A BAT who fell upon the ground and was caught by a Weasel pleaded to be spared his life. The Weasel refused, saying that he was by nature the enemy of all birds. The Bat assured him that he was not a bird, but a mouse, and thus was set free. Shortly afterwards the Bat again fell to the ground and was caught by another Weasel, whom he likewise entreated not to eat him. The Weasel said that he had a special hostility to mice. The Bat assured him that he was not a mouse, but a bat, and thus a second time escaped.

It is wise to turn circumstances to good account.



## WHO'S ON STAFF?

Project Leader  
STEVE ATZERT

Deputy Project Leader  
DEBORAH LONG

Acting Refuge Manager  
Barnegat Division  
VINNY TURNER

Chief of Visitor Services  
ART WEBSTER

Biologists  
JORGE COPPEN, VINNY TURNER

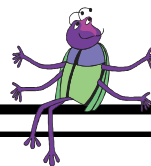
Refuge Law Enforcement Officers  
BRIAN WILLARD, CHRIS PANCILA

Administrative  
Officer  
MARTHA HAND

Visitor Services  
Manager  
CINDY HEFFLEY

Volunteer Coordinator  
SANDY PERCHETTI

Maintenance Professionals  
TOM HOLDSWORTH  
TERRY MITCHELL



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